

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting member sleeve for insertion into a wound opening, wherein the retractor includes a distal portion including a portion of the retracting sleeve and a distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the retracting member in the wound opening distal portion such that the distal ring is located within a body cavity and the retracting sleeve lines the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes including a groove for receiving the distal portion of the retractor for mounting the retractor to the insertion tool, and at least a portion of the insertion tool is configured to penetrate the wound opening such that, in a deployment position, the distal ring is positioned to intersect a central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the distal ring extends generally in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

2-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5 1 wherein the distal ring member is of flexible material.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 5 1 wherein the distal ring member is of elastomeric material.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises an elongate member having a distal end.

9. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the distal end of the insertion tool has a cutting blade for penetrating the wound opening by piercing.

10-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool comprises a handle.

15. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insertion tool has a wound extending portion with a transverse dimension of from 3 to 35 mm.

16. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the transverse dimension of the wound extending portion is from 5 to 12 mm.

17. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wound retractor comprises:

a proximal member for location externally of a wound opening;

the proximal member being movable relative to the retracting ~~member sleeve~~ to shorten the axial extent of the retracting ~~member sleeve~~ to laterally retract a wound opening.

18. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises an annular ring means.

19. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the annular ring means comprises an inner ring and an outer ring between which the retracting ~~member sleeve~~ may be lead.

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein one of the rings defines a projection for location in a complimentary recess of the outer ring with the retracting ~~member sleeve~~ located therebetween.

21. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is a relatively tight fit in the recess to grip the retracting ~~member sleeve~~ therebetween.

22. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the projection is locatable in the recess in a snap-fit manner.

23. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the inner ring defines the projection and the outer ring defines the recess.

24. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the outer ring defines the projection and the inner ring defines the recess.

25. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the proximal member comprises one or more valves to facilitate sealed access of an object through the proximal member.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 26 1 wherein the distal member ring comprises an O-ring.

28. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 26 1 wherein the distal member ring comprises an annular disc.

29. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 26 1 wherein the distal member ring is of a resilient material.

30. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retracting member sleeve is flared distally outwardly.

31. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the retractor comprises means to seal a retracted wound opening.

32. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the sealing means is provided externally of a wound opening.

33. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the sealing means is mountable to the proximal member.

34. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 33 wherein the sealing means comprises a cap.

35. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 31 wherein the sealing means comprises a valve to facilitate sealed access of an object through the sealing means.

36. (Withdrawn) A system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the object comprises an instrument.

37-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening,
wherein the retractor includes a distal portion; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the
distal portion through the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes a groove
~~for receiving the distal portion of the retractor for mounting the retractor to the insertion~~
~~tool~~ unitary shaft including a distal end portion, the distal end portion including a
retractor receiving portion configured to position the distal portion generally in the
direction of a central longitudinal axis of the insertion tool, and the retractor receiving
portion including an opening facing the wound opening during deployment.

56. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the distal portion comprises a distal ring member mounted to the retracting member.

57. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 55 wherein the ~~insertion~~
~~tool comprises a distal end portion~~ is configured to penetrate the wound opening.

58. (Currently Amended) A wound retractor system comprising:-

a retractor having a retracting member for insertion into a wound opening,
wherein the retractor includes a distal portion including a distal ring; and

an insertion tool for inserting or assisting the insertion of or deployment of the
retracting member in the wound opening, wherein the insertion tool includes an opening
~~for completely receiving at least a portion of the distal portion of the retractor for~~

mounting the retractor to the insertion tool, and a blunted end for insertion into the wound opening

a groove for receiving the distal portion such that, in a deployment position, the distal ring extends generally in the direction of the longitudinal axis, and
a taper in a plane normal to a plane formed by the distal ring in the deployment position.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Cancelled).

61. (New) A system as claimed in claim 55, wherein the retractor receiving portion includes a groove and the opening forms a part of the groove.